

## **Notice of closure of Temple to Public**

**From 8:00pm on 21st March 2020**

### Statement from Trustees of Shri Venkateswara Balaji Temple of the United Kingdom

Devotees and visitors to the Balaji Temple will no doubt be aware of the ongoing emergency in regard to the Covid-19 Pandemic

The vast majority of our devotees have already acted with great responsibility and reduced their visits to the Temple by almost 90%.

However, for the avoidance of doubt and to ensure that we play our part in the national effort to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus even further, the Trustees have decided to CLOSE the Temple to all devotees and visitors with immediate effect until further Notice.

The Temple premises are both the place of work and the place of residence for many of our Temple Priests and so, under the Home Working recommendations, we have decided that the routine of daily Pujas and Aaratis will continue to be performed by the Priests in the various shrines while maintaining a safe social distance.

Devotees may of course ring up and book any special Archanas and Pujas that they wish to perform and these will then be done on their behalf by the Priests. But as previously announced on the website, all gatherings large and small have been cancelled. We are now saying that the Temple, the surrounding shrines and the Community Hall will all be CLOSED until further notice.

The Trustees are grateful to all our devotees, friends, visitors and well-wishers for their continued support.

We urge everyone to do their bit to stay safe, stay home as much as possible, keep healthy, look out for each other and follow all the guidelines on <https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>, Together, we can all do our bit to help get through these extraordinarily challenging times

21 March 2020